

M. Tanaka et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/841,666
Page 6 of 8

REMARKS

Claims 6-9 and 17-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 10-12 were withdrawn from consideration, and are now canceled without prejudice. Claims 6-9 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 13-16, respectively, and to more clearly define a configuration of the concave or convex portions. Claims 6-9 have been amended in the same manner as provided in the Amendment of September 11, 2006, which was not entered. The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed.

New claims 17-29 have been added by the present amendment, including new independent claims 17 and 24, which recite an apparatus for producing an optical film and a die roller for producing an optical film, respectively. Independent claims 17 and 24 recite a cylindrical die roller (or "cylindrical body") that is rotated on a film to transfer concave or convex portions to a surface of the film, where the concave or convex portions are continuously arranged "so as to form linear rows on one virtual plane obtained by developing the surface of the [die roller/cylindrical body]," the linear rows being adjacently arranged in parallel and "extending in a direction which forms a predetermined angle with respect to a side of the one virtual plane corresponding to a periphery of the [die roller/ cylindrical body]." The new claims are fully supported by the application as originally filed (see, e.g., FIG. 8 and specification at page 23, lines 20-21; page 25, line 5 to page 28, line 19; and page 36, line 14 to page 37, line 1).

As amended, claims 6-9 of the Applicants' claimed invention recite an apparatus and method for producing an optical film in which a plurality of rows of concave or convex portions are configured by quadrangular pyramids having square bottom faces such that each of the square bottom faces has at least one diagonal inclined at an angle of 10-40° with respect to a direction of a rotation axis of a die roller.

For example, referring to FIGS. 5 and 8, a cutting tool 21 is placed on a die roller 105 such that a diagonal line 25 forms "a predetermined angle θ with respect to the direction of the rotation axis 23 of the die roller" (see specification at page 24, lines 11-15). Thus, a plurality of

M. Tanaka et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/841,666
Page 7 of 8

concave portions 24 are formed on the die roller 105 (see specification at page 26, lines 5-13). Each concave portion 24 is "configured by a quadrangular pyramid having a square bottom face" (see specification at page 27, lines 14-16).

Applicants' claimed invention can provide significant benefits. When the die roller presses an optical film while being rotated on the film, concave portions or convex portions are transferred and formed in the surface of the film (see, e.g., specification at page 21, lines 13-21; and FIG. 4). When an edge of the film is placed in parallel with the rotation axis of the die roller, an optical film is produced in which an edge of a ground film is inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to the rows of transferred concave portions or convex portions that are linearly continuous (see, e.g., specification at page 33, lines 4-8). The Applicants' claimed invention can produce an optical film for use in a liquid crystal display panel, where a pitch of moiré fringes due to the rows of the optical film becomes very small.

Claims 6-9 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication 11-147255 to "Michiharu". This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Michiharu does not teach or suggest an apparatus or method for producing an optical film in which a cylindrical die roller is formed with a plurality of concave or convex portions that are configured by quadrangular pyramids having square bottom faces such that each of the square bottom faces has at least one diagonal inclined at an angle of 10-40° with respect to a direction of a rotation axis of a die roller.

On page 2, last paragraph of the Final Office Action of 06/12/2006, a pattern roller 1 in FIG. 1 was cited as allegedly corresponding to Applicants' claimed "cylindrical die roller."

However, the pattern roller 1 of Michiharu is **not** formed with a plurality of rows of concave portions or convex portions that are configured by quadrangular pyramids having square bottom faces, or where each of the square bottom faces has at least one diagonal inclined at an angle of 10-40° with respect to a direction of a rotation axis of a die roller, as claimed.

M. Tanaka et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/841,666
Page 8 of 8

Referring to FIGS. 3(a) to 3(c) of Michiharu, there is no teaching or suggestion of the Applicants' claimed "plurality of rows of concave portions or convex portions that are configured by quadrangular pyramids having square bottom faces."

Further, referring to FIG. 9(b) of Michiharu, a prism sheet is formed with a plurality of pyramids. However, the pyramids are not inclined with respect to an edge of the prism sheet. Instead, the diagonals of a bottom face of the pyramids form a 45° angle with the edge of the prism sheet.

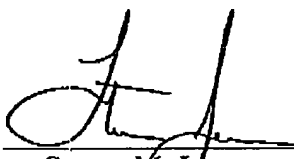
According to the Applicants' claimed invention, each of the square bottom faces must have at least one diagonal "inclined at a predetermined angle of between about 10 degrees and 40 degrees with respect to a direction of a rotation axis of the die roller."

For at least the reasons discussed above, the Michiharu reference does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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